

**Hello Washington! Volume 3 /  
Issue # 1 / September 2023**



## Washington Family welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

We are grateful for a brand new school year at WA. We are happy to welcome all our PK-12 students, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, and friends to the 2023 - 2024 school year! After a well deserved break, we are delighted to see our classrooms and hallways busy with students, ready to learn and conquer the challenges this new academic year will offer. We look forward to a productive partnership with parents, in order to ensure our students can achieve their highest potential. We believe a strong alliance among all stakeholders makes a great difference in the quality of the education our students receive. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our role.

As you can see in our annual school calendar, shared via email and WhatsApp, we are following through with some of our traditional events such as: the Spirit Week picnic, our Patinata, the Christmas Bazaar, and our 20th Caminata, among others. We hope our new families will be able to learn more and appreciate the Washington Spirit.

Let's enjoy, make the most out of this school year, and fill it with fun and heartwarming memories!





# A Special Welcome to New Families

Starting a new school is a big deal for both parents and students! You are going to meet lots of new people and be thrown into new situations. That's bound to make you feel lots of different emotions. It could be exciting and fun – if that's how you feel, then enjoy the moment! But for some of you, it could make you feel a little anxious. The best way to cope with these feelings is to connect. It will be difficult these first weeks since everyone at school is super busy. However, trust and be patient. Teachers and staff are aware of this, and are planning to host fun and informative events to help you connect with our school and community. We are really excited to get to know you and your child(ren) throughout the first trimester.



Welcome Preschool Parents



Welcome 2nd Grade Parents



## Class of 2024 or Promo 34

Let's give our Class of 2024 a warm welcome and encourage them throughout their last year at WA. Seniors, we are proud of you guys and look forward to seeing great things from each of you! As we said before: Let's make this year a great one!



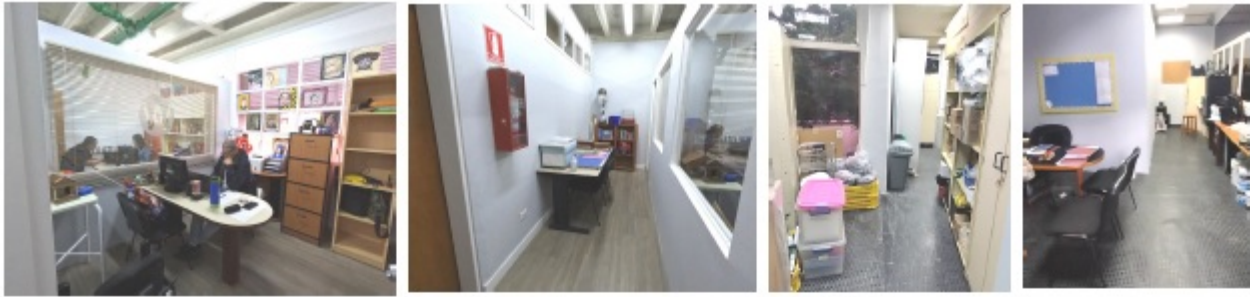
# Washington Academy Receives a Makeover!

Washington Academy's infrastructure received a makeover throughout the 2022-2023 academic year and summer break! The Board of Directors, Administrators, and SPRAW sat down to make a list of priorities for construction, renovations, and repairs to address health and safety concerns, teachers' needs, and curriculum improvement needs. Among these we have the following:

- All the floors in the High School hallway and classrooms were changed.
- Air conditioning units added to all Preschool classrooms, ES Art classroom, and Preschool Reading classrooms.
- Nurse office remodeling
- Railing of Prekinder stairs
- 2 new reading classrooms: 1 for Preschool and 1 for Elementary
- New furniture in the ES Art classroom
- 2 new teachers' workstation rooms with a total of 9 computers
- 10 specialized classrooms for High School where students rotate throughout the day.
- New High School Coordinators' office
- New Head of Maintenance and Purchasing office
- New storage room
- New computer lab
- 6 new Smartboards: 2 for 1st Grade, 1 for Lower Elementary, 1 for Upper Elementary, 1 for High School, and 1 for our multipurpose room. Smartboards are great resources to:
  - ✔ Increase student engagement
  - ✔ Accommodate different learning styles
  - ✔ Facilitate differentiation
  - ✔ Promote collaboration among classmates
  - ✔ Help teachers save time and resources

We hope all our community appreciates and enjoys these upgrades!





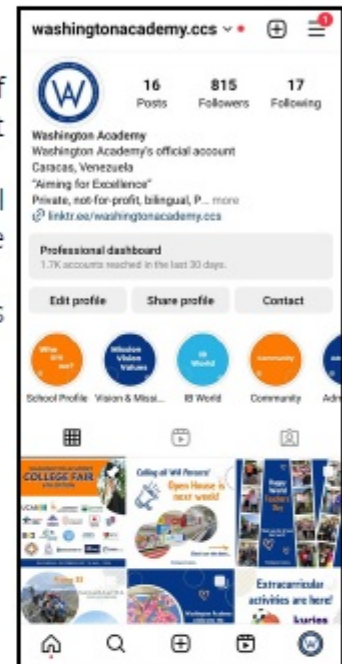
## Instagram

We finally launched our official Instagram account. We want to invite all of you to follow us at [@washingtonacademy.ccs](https://www.instagram.com/washingtonacademy.ccs) and discover more about what our school has to offer.

If you have any news or images you want to share with us about school events, please send the information and/or the images, via email, to the following address: [comunicaciones@aw.edu.ve](mailto:comunicaciones@aw.edu.ve)

Also, if you would like to include an event, remember to include answers to the following questions:

- ✔ What did the event consist of? Add the title of the event.
- ✔ Who organized or coordinated the event? Who participated? Who competed? Who won?
- ✔ When did the event take place (date, times)?
- ✔ Where did the event take place?
- ✔ Why was the event planned?
- ✔ How was it supposed to go? How did it turn out? Include any funny or curious details.



### New Faculty & Staff @ WA



Paula Saturno



María Teresa Canzanese



Valentina Díaz



Maigé Rivero



Robert Riveros



Zulimar Rodríguez



Salomón Ron-Pedrique

This academic year, seven new members joined our Washington family.

Among last year's substitutes who are returning this year as official teaching staff we have:

- **Paula Saturno:** 1st Grade assistant.

We are also happy to announce we have an alumni and returning faculty (2014 - 2016):

- **María Teresa Canzanese:** 1st Grade teacher.

And the new talent for this academic year is:

- **Valentina Díaz:** Librarian
- **Maigé Rivero:** 6th through 9th Grade French teacher
- **Robert Riveros:** Upper Elementary (5th, 6th, and 7th Grade) Individuals and Societies teacher.
- **Zulimar Rodríguez:** joined us this May as Kinder assistant.
- **Salomón Ron-Pedrique:** 9th and 10th Grade English Language Acquisition and English Language and Literature teacher.

Please give a warm welcome to all our new staff when you get a chance. We hope you will be able to feel at home throughout your time at WA!

# Getting Everything Ready

Our hardworking teaching staff or faculty made sure everything was ready to welcome students. Like every year, they spent the week before the first day of class organizing and making sure their classrooms were cleaned, and that all repairs were made. In addition, they reviewed the curriculum and planned creative and engaging activities for the first trimester. The hallways and bulletin boards were beautifully decorated to make our students feel welcome and excited to start their classes. In order to provide more focused attention to our students and families, different levels and grades started on different days depending on their needs:

- **Seniors** Thursday, Sep. 14th
- **Juniors** Friday, Sep. 15th
- **Preschool** Monday, Sep. 18th
- **2nd Grade** Tuesday, Sep. 19th
- **3rd to 10th Grade** Wednesday, Sep. 20th

At Washington, Elementary level starts in 2nd Grade. Subject specialist teachers, lockers, more responsibilities and independence are some of the exciting changes that await them!



## School Vision, Mission, Values & IB Learner Profile

We want all of our WA family to keep in mind, what we strive for at Washington, throughout the school year. Therefore, we share the following:

**Vision** *Aiming for Excellence*

**Mission** *Give the Students the tools they need to cope with life*

**Values** *Respect, Honesty, Responsibility, Justice, and Loyalty*

Community Profile: **All our WA family members strive to be...**



# Professional Development for Faculty and Staff

Before the arrival of students, our teachers received training in different areas of school-wide curricular improvements. Among these workshops we had:

## Atlas Curriculum System

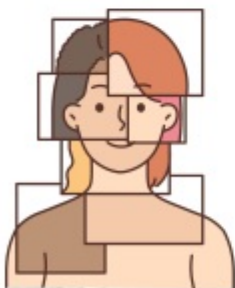
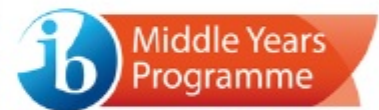
ATLAS Curriculum System is a cloud-based curriculum management system that helps schools and districts to design, implement, and assess their curriculum. It provides a central place to store and manage all aspects of the curriculum, including standards, lessons, assessments, and resources. ATLAS Curriculum system is used by over 6,000 schools and districts around the world.



**Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** training sessions by CASEL (The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) in order to help make evidence-based social and emotional learning an integral part of Washington Academy education from Preschool through High School.

## International Baccalaureate's (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) Planning

These professional development opportunities for faculty and staff allow them to learn about and develop the skills necessary to plan and deliver the MYP curriculum effectively. As some of you may already know, the MYP is a challenging academic program that encourages students to become critical thinkers and lifelong learners. It is designed for students aged 11-16 and is offered in schools around the world.



## Differentiation and Inclusion in the Classroom

Differentiation is the process of tailoring instruction to meet the individual needs of all students. It involves providing students with different learning opportunities, based on their readiness, interests, and learning styles. On the other hand, Inclusion is the practice of educating all students in the general education classroom, regardless of their abilities. It is based on the belief that all students can learn and succeed together, and that all students deserve to be part of the same learning community. Differentiation and inclusion are two important concepts in education. When used together, they can create a classroom environment where all students feel supported and challenged, and where all students have the opportunity to succeed.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Classroom

This in-person workshop taught our teachers and staff how to use AI to improve teaching and learning. These sessions cover a variety of topics, such as:

- What is AI and how does it work?
- The different types of AI that can be used in the classroom
- How to use AI to personalize learning?
- How to use AI to assess student progress?
- How to use AI to create engaging and interactive learning experiences?
- The ethical implications of using AI in the classroom



Some of the benefits of this workshop for faculty and staff are:

- Teachers learn how to use AI to personalize learning and meet the needs of all learners.
- They also gain access to new AI tools and resources that can be used to create engaging and interactive learning experiences.
- Faculty and staff discover best practices for using AI ethically and responsibly in the classroom.
- They connect with other educators who are interested in using AI to improve teaching and learning.

## Backward Unit Design Training Sessions

Backward Unit Design in education is a curriculum planning process that starts with the desired results, or learning goals, and then works backward to plan the assessment and learning experiences that will help students achieve those goals. This approach is in contrast to the traditional approach of starting with the content to be covered and then designing the assessment and learning experiences around that content. Backward unit design has a number of benefits, including:

- It helps teachers focus on the most important things students need to learn.
- It ensures that assessment and instruction are aligned.
- It provides a clear roadmap for learning.
- It helps teachers make better use of their time and resources.
- It leads to improved student learning outcomes.



## Mi Metro Cuadrado Workshop by Ylse Rojas.

Ylse Rojas is an economist and certified coach who guided a motivational workshop for our teachers about the importance of team-work, collaboration, and leadership.

